

REMARKS

This Amendment is prepared in response to the Office action mailed on 24 January 2008 (Paper No. 20080115).

The present claims have been variously rejected under 35 USC 102 as anticipated by Azema (not Tadamitsu) or Yamashita (not Masataka) or under 35 USC 103 as obvious over Azema in view of Cho are obvious over Yamashita in view of Azema for substantially the same reasons previously presented in the June 18, 2007 Office Action.

In responding to the arguments contained in the November 8, 2007 Amendment, the Examiner argues that since the lead plate in both Azema and Yamashita is contained within the cavities thereof, the lead plate must be pressed into such cavities.

Furthermore, the Examiner has argued that the previous claims did not exclude welding from occurring to the lead plate before or after entering the cavity/aperture.

In response thereto, the independent claims have been revised so as to now clearly recite that the lead plate is **pressfit** into the cavity/aperture, the lead plate being tightly attached **without welding** to the cavity/aperture.

As noted in paragraphs [0043]-[0049] of the present specification, by pressing the

lead plate into the cavity/aperture, the lead plate is tightly coupled to either the cap plate or the external bottom surface of the can without welding, thereby avoiding problems associated with welding of the lead plate.

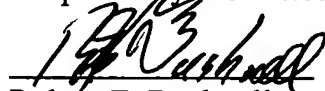
Since the lead plates of Azema and Yamashita are welded, the lead plates thereof are merely contained within the cavity/aperture without being pressfit as in the present claims.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the present claims are patentable over the cited art, taken either alone or in combination, and should therefore now be in a condition suitable for allowance.

No other issues remaining, reconsideration and favorable action upon all of the claims now present in the application is respectfully requested.

No fee is incurred by this Amendment.

Respectfully submitted,



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